

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 27, 2008, has been received and carefully reviewed. The following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application for which reconsideration is requested.

Claims 10-20 were determined to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,014,649 to Kobayashi et al. ("Kobayashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that claims 1-9 recite subject matter not disclosed by Kobayashi.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-9 depend, method for filling at least partially emptied money cassettes for automatic teller machines with money. The method includes steps of removing a first, at least partially emptied money cassette from a first automatic teller machine, and filling the first money cassette. The filling of the first money cassette is effected in a mobile charging station, which can be transported from an automatic teller machine to at least one further automatic teller machine.

The method of refilling bill cassettes in ATMs described by Kobayashi is, however, entirely different form the method as presently claimed in pending claim 1. Referring to Fig. 17 and column 21, line 46 of Kobayashi, ATMs are replenished with banknotes by moving a mobile cart 50 to an ATM. The mobile cart 50 contains a bill cassette 22 filled with banknotes. The mobile cart bill cassette 22 and the ATM cassette 22 to be replenished are exchanged with each other. While the ATM cassette

is stored in the mobile cart, a stacker in the ATM is replenished with a predetermined number of bills supplied from the mobile cart bill cassette 22. Thereafter, the ATM cassette 22 stored in the mobile cart 50 and the mobile cart bill cassette 22 loaded into the ATM are exchanged with each other again. Thus, according to Kobayashi, the bill replenishment operation is performed in the ATM (see also column 8, lines 52-53 of Kobayashi), unlike the claimed invention by which the filling of the ATM cassette ("first money cassette") is effected in the mobile cart ("mobile changing station").

The mobile cart in Kobayashi only serves to transport the bill cassette 22 from one ATM to the next ATM. The mobile cart is unable to replenish a cassette with bills since it does not have any transporting elements for banknotes (see Fig. 6 of Kobayashi). Thus, Kobayashi fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1, upon which claims 2-9 depend and the rejection is improper.

Further, Kobayashi discloses that it is the advantage of the mobile cart 50 that it does not require any devices for handling banknotes (see column 5, line 63 to column 5, line 2 of Kobayashi). Instead, according to Kobayashi, the transporting devices of the respective ATM are used for replenishing the cassette (see column 8, lines 52-53 of Kobayashi). Thus, Kobayashi teaches away from the current invention and there is no reason why the skilled person in the art should modify the mobile cart 50 in Kobayashi such that it can be used to replenish cassettes with banknotes.

Moreover, the presently claimed configuration results in an important advantage that replenishment of ATMs can be performed much faster than in the prior art

because, for replenishing the ATM, it is only necessary to exchange an empty bill cassette against a filled bill cassette. In Kobayashi, however, the mobile cart as to wait near the ATM until the ATM has been replenished with a predetermined number of bills supplied from the mobile cart cassette. The mobile cart can be moved to the next ATM only after the ATM has returned the mobile cart cassette to the mobile cart. This can take about 15 minutes (see column 22, lines 40 to 50 of Kabayashi).

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and request that claims 1-20 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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